

MEDFORD TRIBUNE
"Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune"
Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
32 North 21st St. Ph. SP 2-4141

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLISHERS
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Flight 'o Time
Medford and Jackson County
History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

Taxes, Lumber & Economics

Property tax bills for residents in many parts of the county will be higher this year, according to a forecast by County Assessor Ray Shumacher.

The increases come largely as a result of the rising cost of operating schools and city governments, and because of the increasing school population.

None of it is attributable to general county government. For this year, as for the past three years, the county is levying no taxes at all for its own purposes.

THIS, as is well known (although, perhaps, not well enough) is because of the large income the county receives from the federal government as payments in lieu of taxes for property owned by the government.

The largest portion of it comes from the bureau of land management. This year the payment was the largest in history — \$2,314,670 — and is \$433,585 more than the second — largest payment, in 1954. It represents one half of the amount received by the bureau (mostly from timber sales) on BLM operations within the county.

Another 25 per cent of the total also is allocated to the county. But the O&C counties of western Oregon voluntarily have relinquished that amount to go into funds for the construction of access roads and for reforestation.

AN additional, though smaller, amount comes from the U. S. forest service — an amount equal to 25 per cent of their earnings (again mostly from timber sales) in the county. This must be used for school and road purposes, while the O&C income may be used by the county in any legal way.

It is these funds which permit the county to operate without taxes year after year. (What happens if this amount is cut off, or seriously reduced, is something yet to be decided.)

One lumberman in this area has pointed out that this money is not "manna from heaven," although it is easy to think of it this way. He makes the point, and it is a valid one, that the money which the county uses to eliminate taxes for county purposes (and to reduce school taxes too) comes from Jackson county's forest products industry.

HIS points are made in a recent letter, portions of which are quoted herewith:

"I doubt if very many people realize the tremendous impact of this money (the O&C fund) on the individual taxpayer in particular and on the economy of Jackson county in general.
This impact manifests itself in this fashion: The total county assessed valuation is now set at \$86,210,408.30. The O&C payment amounted to \$2,314,670. It thus follows that the millage equivalent of the O&C payment related to the assessed valuation amounts to 26.8 mills. This means that a direct saving in county property taxes to each taxpayer is 26.8 mills.
Therefore, a taxpayer with an assessed valuation of \$5,000 is saved \$134, which he would be paying were it not for this O&C payment. In other words, by using this 26.8 mill measurement, each taxpayer can easily determine the effect on his tax bill by multiplying the 26.8 mills by his assessed valuation."

FROM this discussion of tax savings (which is generally correct, although it overlooks the "surplus" funds which are budgeted but not used, and also the possibility that the budget might well be somewhat smaller if it came from out-of-pocket taxes) he goes on to discuss the role of the forest products industry. He says:

"One of the most pertinent points to this whole story is focused upon the source of the O&C money. With but very minor exceptions the entire fund comes from the sale of timber located upon O&C lands. The buyer in this case, and the actual source of these funds, is the forest products industry of Jackson county.
Were it not for a healthy, progressive lumber industry in this county capable of purchasing and, most important, paying for such timber, these funds would not be available. The impact of such a situation on each taxpayer is easily measured by applying the 26.8 mill formula referred to above."

THESE facts, of course, represent only one way in which "lumber" is of value to the county. It results, as outlined, in direct tax reduction. But it also provides the county's major single payroll, and the dollars which are spent for bread, shoes, automobiles and newspapers are, in large part, lumber dollars.

This leads to such questions as: How healthy is the lumber industry? Can we continue to depend on it as a source of wealth for the indefinite future? How well is it meeting the competition of other materials? And how much of the waste now created can be utilized in the future?

FOR the answers to these questions one will have to wait to see what the future brings. But in general terms, the supplies of timber (in federal ownership and in privately-owned sustained-yield and tree farm ownerships) will last indefinitely at a certain level of production.

Also, the industry is going through a period of self-examination aimed at the utilization of waste products, the improvement of its competitive position, and its stabilization as a long-range producer of a wide variety of goods.

Every resident of this community has a stake in seeing that the questions are answered affirmatively. The more progressive firms are moving in this direction. We wish them well. — E.A.

Subcommittee Kills Trinity Project

Washington—The House reclamation subcommittee today voted 13-9 to kill the controversial "partnership" plan for private power development at California's Trinity River project.

A subcommittee spokesman said the action ends the four-year fight over private vs. public development of Trinity energy. The spokesman said that no further action is required by the full House Interior committee.



'DENNIS!'

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

New Name Needed?

To the Editor: The cognomen of "tourist" to a stranger visiting our state is wearing itself ragged. The connotation is developing the stigma of former terms such as "greenhorn," "sucker," "cheechako," "pigeon," and many other similar words used to denote individuals who are easily misled.

Just the mere mention of being a traveler is enough for a good mark-up in prices. Shrewd individuals on the shady side can spot a newcomer ten city blocks away. And woe be unto them and their residual experiences.

Were it not for another word, also bearing semantic disrepute, I should be willing to call our yearly visitors "fellow travelers."

George Distell
156 Vashit Way
Medford

Economics Will Solve It

To the Editor: The incendiary letter Mrs. Leonard Mathews had in the Sunday "Communications" struck right at me.

I am a millwright in one of the mills in this area, and my duties have to do with the burner at our mill. During the two years time I have worked at this mill we have installed different grates, added blowers, put water on the top of the burner and also have a watering device that sprays the sawdust down before it enters the burner. The blowers have worked perfectly, the water comes gushing out and the smoke pours forth!

The state air pollution men were up at various times and, solemnly told me to keep it hot, don't use blowers—use lots of air, reduce water and add water!

They say they see hundreds of burners in the course of their business and mine is doing fine!

I have one excellent cure for all this "nuisance," and that is just don't put any sawdust in the burner! However, that complicates things as I have never been around any mill that was running that did not produce sawdust.

Now if we wish to go further and assume the pear growers were not permitted to smudge and offices to be heated, we could achieve our hope of a pure, sparkling air free of contamination.

Now, Mrs. Mathews, I am sure you will want to lead our parade of enthusiasts by plugging your fireplace and stovepipes up. Didn't you realize you were just as busily polluting the air as anyone? It won't cost you too much to change over completely to electricity. Perhaps I am being snide when I ask you why you came to this bustling community? Wasn't it because the mills were pouring forth lumber and the orchards heavily laden with fruit?

As Judge Earl Miller asks for patience, so do I because every millman in the business knows that smoke represents wood and wood in the burner is not lumber on a freight car.

To my knowledge there have been a number of attempts to salvage edgings and mill ends by remanufacturing, but it just has not proved economical as yet.

I know of mills which have spent many thousands of dollars for chippers to remove the bark from logs so they would have clean chips to ship to paper plants, only to find they had a white elephant, and have to cease operations.

Government is always unwieldy and lumberwise, and to inflict our lumber industry

with restrictions and laws would only do injury because as economies are effected and changes are made in production this problem will solve itself.

C. T. Sheppard,
2680 Crater Lake ave.,
Medford.

Law Said Needed

To the Editor: Once again we have had a terrible fire and once again the age-old complaint was voiced: "Fire-fighters have been seriously handicapped by the mobs of curious who jammed the highways and made passage of vital men and equipment difficult."
How much longer is this senseless custom going to be permitted? At every fire it is the same; the empty-headed, criminally-curious thrill seeker makes the always hazardous job of the fireman infinitely more dangerous and difficult. Many lives have been needlessly lost because of them.

In addition to the four or five hundred laws passed at each session of the legislature we need one more—and one with teeth! A law making it a criminal offense for a person to be in the vicinity of a fire unless that person has a vital need to be there.

One penalty might well be the immediate impressment into front line fire-fighting service of any person so caught—male or female. When a few of the thrill seekers have fought to exhaustion or maybe been trapped behind the lines because of more such as they, they will surely think twice before dashing to the next fire.

Our Jackson county delegation could do the people no greater service than to initiate and work hard for the passage of such a measure.

N. von der Hellen,
Eagle Point, Ore.

No Logic in Waiting

To the Editor: This writer is all for preservation of our wilderness areas. But the simple fact remains that survival of any fauna or flora tribe depends on its adaptability to changing conditions. By taking irrigation and industrial waters from the Rogue river and restoring none, we have brought the once marvelous salmon runs close to extinction.

So what are the salmon doing about it? Just one thing. The remnants of the once mighty tribe gather in the diminishing coolness of shaded deep pools of the lower Rogue river waiting the coming of the cooling fall rains. If the rains are too late in coming, then the salmon are made too late in their procreative spawning cycle and that run is largely lost. It is just that simple and deadly so. For the cold-water salmon to try the struggle up the shallow, reportedly 80 degree plus, moss-choked trickle of the lower Rogue river would be just as deadly.

So why this Hesitating Hanna time-wasting for an enlargement of these waiting pools to gargantuan dam size and make the Rogue come up somewhere to its too largely advertised possibilities as returning fishermen claim has been done by building of the Shasta dam. But this is not all. Instead of these steep and narrow confines of the unnatural, scary and bulky building concrete fish-ladder, it would seem much better to build a detour for the upstream urged salmon on the order of those in Scotland which are a series of 10 foot to 30 foot pools with natural smooth rounded rocks forming the spill-way, which affords

Geneva Talks Accomplish Postponement Of Berlin Showdown—If Nothing Else

By JOSEPH W. GRIGG
Geneva — (AP) — The Berlin showdown has been postponed for months—perhaps for years.

A nuclear third world war over the divided city is less likely now than at any time since Nov. 27, 1958, when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev rocked the West with his ultimatum to get out of Berlin in six months.

In the opinion of informed and responsible Western diplomats, easing of the Berlin crisis was the main achievement of the Big Four foreign ministers conference which ended here last Wednesday.

The Berlin crisis and the Khrushchev time-bomb were "talked out" in Geneva, in the belief of Western diplomats. And the 10-week deadlock of the Western and So-

viety foreign ministers led indirectly to the exchange of visits between President Eisenhower and Khrushchev.
When Khrushchev sprang his ultimatum last November, the West was caught by surprise. Worse still, it was caught without any agreed policy.

The North Atlantic Treaty (NATO) Allies at their Christmas meeting in Paris talked tough about never being driven out of Berlin. But there was a lack of conviction in their tough talk.

They had no plan of action in case the Kremlin cut off access routes to Berlin. Further, it was doubtful whether public opinion in Britain and some other European NATO countries ever would have tolerated a nuclear world war over Berlin.

The hectic "peace missions"

of Britain's Prime Minister Harold Macmillan to Moscow, Paris, Bonn and Washington in the spring merely pointed up the Western state of jitters without achieving much in the way of a United Western policy.

New Phase Starts
But the Geneva foreign ministers talks, which opened May 11, ushered in a new phase in East-West relations.

Khrushchev let it be known that his six-month ultimatum was elastic—that it didn't much

matter to him whether it was stretched out a couple of months or perhaps longer, provided East-West talks were going on.

The May 27 deadline, when Russia should have lowered the boom on Berlin, passed without so much as a delay to a truck on the Berlin Autobahn while the foreign ministers talked in Geneva.

It became pretty obvious to the West that Khrushchev himself preferred talks to H-bombs.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

Letter to a Humphreyite Dear Jim:

Forgive me for carrying our argument into print. A political reporter's impartial loyalty to the facts is his most important asset, and I feel I must defend myself on this point, in this unaccustomed public manner.

You complained about my account of a poll laboriously taken in a Queens election district—a district that gave President Eisenhower heavy majorities in 1952 and 1956, and also gave Governor Nelson Rockefeller a comfortable majority in 1958. Since you are promoting the Democratic Presidential candidacy of Senator Hubert Humphrey, I can see why you did not like this poll's decidedly sensational results.

When polled a few days ago, this Republican-voting district gave the Democratic front-runner, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, a lead of nearly five to one over Vice President Richard M. Nixon—and this was after everyone had seen and admired the Nixon-Khrushchev television show. It gave Kennedy a lead of much more than five to one over Governor Rockefeller. And it showed Kennedy running approximately three times better than Humphrey and the Senate's two other Democratic Presidential aspirants, Lyndon Johnson of Texas and Stuart Symington of Missouri.

AS I HAVE said, these were sensational results. I should not have published such results from a single small district, if the little poll in Queens had not fitted so exactly with much larger, as yet unpublished polls that I have heard about from Republican sources.

One of these was a privately sponsored poll of New York State taken by the inquiring Dr. Gallup. This one gave Kennedy over 60 per cent of the statewide vote. Another was a national poll taken in July, presumably for publication but somewhat surprisingly not released. This one gave nationwide results almost comparable to those which Gallup obtained in New York.

As you can easily see, any candidate who scores above 60 per cent in a statewide test has got to have many pockets of 70 and 80 per cent support. Such pockets of super-enthusiasm are essential, in order to overwhelm the areas traditionally attached to the party.

Hence I concluded that my Queens results were not too exceptional to see the light. That leaves us with a question, however. What on earth are the sources of this mass support for Kennedy, that all the pollsters have found?

JUDGING by my own experiences of pavement-pounding and doorbell-ringing, I would say that Kennedy's mass support has four, inter-related sources. To begin

with, he has clearly impressed the electorate as a considerable political personality in his own right. The general liking and admiration for him in turn give added weight to his special advantages. These are of their importance.

First, the politicians may be appalled, but the voters are pleased by the fact that Kennedy does not look at all like a politician. I imagine you will agree that the character of his picture on the front pages helped Charles A. Lindbergh to become an enduring national hero. By a similar effect, the Kennedy image has been fixed in the public mind.

Second, and more significant, the labor reform activities of Kennedy and his brother Robert are strikingly popular. No less than three of the 64 Queens pollees, all union members, answered the question on Kennedy: "Which brother do you mean? I'll vote for either."

Third, and most significant, Kennedy gets the votes of an extraordinarily high percentage of the Roman Catholics who have moved into the Republican party. In the Queens poll, he did better than the other Democrats among the Protestants and Jews, getting all nine Jewish votes for instance. But the 42 Catholic pollees were the people who gave Kennedy such an enormous edge over his Democratic rivals, and helped him wipe the floor with Nixon and Rockefeller.

OF COURSE New York State is not two-thirds Catholic, as that Queens district was. In the New York electorate of 15.7 million, there are only 5.4 million Catholics. But at least half of the State's Catholic voters chose President Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956, and the Catholics also contributed heavily to Rockefeller's victory over Averell Harriman. On the showing to date, Kennedy seems to be able to bring something like three quarters—or close to 2,000,000—of New York's Republican-voting Catholics back into the Democratic column.

That is a remarkable fact, which explains the Gallup poll above-cited. As it happens, I am a Republican; and furthermore, I should most like to vote for Senator Johnson among the Democrats. But personal preferences ought not to prevent political reporters from publishing remarkable political facts.

Sincerely,
Joe Alsop
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Shenandoah Park Described; Senator Eyes 'Dunes' Plan

By RICHARD NEUBERGER
U. S. Senator, Oregon

Some 2,000 people had to move to make way for the new National Park in the Blue Ridge Mountains. This was the Shenandoah, which FDR dedicated in 1936. A lot of local folks grumbled at the time. What would replace homesteading, grazing and lumbering in the uplands?

But we heard no complaints on the recent weekend which Maurine and I and our nieces spent at Big Meadows Lodge, in the heart of the Shenandoah. Roads were teeming with cars. Campgrounds overflowed to three times their normal capacity. Neither love nor money could secure accommodations for late arrivals at the lodges. Every seat was taken an hour before the nature lectures began.

Owners of filing stations, motels, inns and restaurants all told us of single days when as many as 36,000 men, women and children visited Shenandoah National Park—and attendance this season is up 14 per cent from 1958. Last year Shenandoah was toured by 1,655,266 people. This is near-

ly equal to the entire population of Oregon.

Reminded of Opponents

As we saw the Shenandoah Park Rangers in their natty uniforms, the naturalists and botanists on the trail to inform wayfarers, the neat lodges, the cars from every state (including Oregon)—all we could think of were the people who are such determined opponents of our own Oregon Dunes National Seashore bill.

Some antagonists of the Oregon Dunes contend our Seashore would be too large—35,000 acres. Shenandoah National Park covers 193,473 acres, and it is in a state with considerably less than one-half the area of Oregon.

We do not expect a park on the Oregon seacoast to attract as many visitors as a park in the crowded Eastern states. But we do know that the vast advertising and heraldry which comes to every National Park unit will help to make the Oregon Dunes Seashore a great tourist success. We wish some of the doubters could have been with us in the verdant wonders of the Shenandoah!

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Aftermath of Roseburg: Our lawmills grind constantly. Starting with the U.S. congress and running down through the state legislatures, the initiative and referendum machinery and the city councils, they pour out a steady stream of legislation—some of it good and a lot of it undigested trash.

The lawbooks bulge and swell increasingly, straining to contain the mass of stuff that is crammed into them.

BUT—

Over all these years—Nobody in Oregon—or, apparently, in Washington or California—appears to have thought of putting together a simple and effective code of procedure for transporting necessary but DANGEROUS explosives from their point of origin to their point of use with a minimum of hazard to the public, and then ENACTING IT INTO LAW.

SO—

What happened at Roseburg happened. The tragedy of it is that it WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED if over the years we had directed more thought and effort toward sane and constructive and FUNDAMENTAL legislation and less effort toward what might be termed legislative fluff and froth.

IT CAN'T be argued that the situation that resulted in the Roseburg tragedy sneaked up on us without warning. IT DIDN'T. A dozen years ago, in Texas, there was a precisely similar tragedy. In the Harbor of Texas City back in 1947, a ship

loaded with ammonium nitrate (as was the truck at Roseburg) exploded and snuffed out half a thousand lives.

Half a thousand lives might have been snuffed out in busy Roseburg if the explosion had occurred at 2:30 p.m., with the downtown area crowded with people, instead of at 1:30 a.m. with the business district practically empty.

THE Texas disaster stirred no warning thoughts. It prompted no serious study of the dangers inherent to the transportation of tricky explosives. Our lawmills went right on grinding out laws that could be done without and giving relatively little thought to preventing such things as the Texas City and the Roseburg explosions.

THE horse has been stolen. The pity of it is that the same horse has been stolen TWICE. It is highly probable that this time the barn door will be locked.

Anyway, let's hope so. Let's go farther than merely hoping. Let's DEMAND that in the future our law-making bodies take care of first things FIRST. The public safety certainly should head the list of FIRST things.

ROSEBURG has been dealt a staggering blow. As this is written, the loss is estimated at ten million dollars or more. That is a heavy loss in a relatively small city.

Businesswise, Roseburg will recover. Its people have courage and enterprise. They have faith in their city, which is the center of a rich area. New buildings will rise to take the place of those that have been destroyed or dangerously damaged. The new will be better than the old.

But at least ten lives have been lost.

Those ten lives can never be replaced.

Western Spending Taps National Average
Washington—(AP) — A survey of 1959 retail sales showed Monday that westerners spent more than Americans in other regions.

Retail spending in the West averaged \$1,347 per person for the year, 15 per cent above the national average of \$1,169, according to a bureau report.

About one per cent of farm crop value is spent for pest control.



Joseph Alsop

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